

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were presented for examination, and claims 1-26 were rejected. Thus, claims 1-26 will be presently pending in this application, of which claims 1, 12, and 22 are independent. Applicant submits that pending claims 1-26 are in condition for allowance.

The following comments address all stated grounds of rejection. Applicant urges the Examiner to pass the claims to allowance in view of the remarks set forth below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**I. Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as Anticipated By Bukow**

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0026338 to Bukow ("Bukow"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

A. Patentability of Independent Claim 1

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method for providing an automated reputation service for furnishing information regarding reputations of parties relative to multiple traits. The method includes providing a client access to the reputation service via a communications network to furnish the information regarding a reputation of a selected party relative to the given trait. Applicant submits that Bukow does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

Bukow does not disclose an automated reputation service to furnish the information regarding a reputation of a selected party relative to the given trait. Rather, Bukow provides an automated project matching service to match workers with projects. Bukow uses a two-stage matching process for matching workers to a project. In the first stage, Bukow uses binary characteristics such as activity, location, and industry to reduce the number of workers

considered for a project (see paragraph 0038, Bukow). Then, in the second stage, Bukow considers other characteristics for the workers matched from the first stage (see paragraph 0043, Bukow). Bukow provides these other characteristics, such as reputation, in a normalized manner, or as a coefficient or a weighted average. Bukow only provides these other characteristics if a worker matches the binary characteristics of the first-stage processing. As such, instead of providing an automated reputation service to automate furnishing reputation information as in the claimed invention, Bukow provides an automated project matching service to automate matching workers to projects.

In further contrast, the claimed invention provides reputations of parties relative to multiple traits and furnishes information regarding a reputation of a selected party relative to a given trait. Bukow does not provide a selected party's reputation relative to a given trait from information regarding reputations of parties relative to multiple traits. Instead, Bukow provides during the second-stage of matching an indication of reputation for workers who have been matched to the binary characteristics of the first-stage matching process. A selected party's reputation relative to a given trait from reputation information relative to multiple traits is not discussed in Bukow. Therefore, Bukow fails to disclose an automated reputation service providing a reputation of a selected party relative to the given trait.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, Bukow fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Claims 2-11 depend on and incorporate all the patentable limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, Bukow fails to detract from the patentability of claims 2-11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

B. Patentability of Independent Claim 12

Independent claim 12 is directed towards a method in an electronic device for providing a collection of reputation data regarding at least one selected party. The method includes furnishing at least a portion of the reputation data to a client and accepting remuneration for furnishing the portion of reputation data to the client. Applicant submits that Bukow does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

Bukow does not disclose accepting remuneration for furnishing the portion of reputation data to the client. Rather, Bukow provides a service to match workers for a project. Bukow does not discuss remuneration for providing the project matching service. Even if Bukow discussed remuneration, Bukow would be accepting remuneration for providing a project matching service instead of furnishing a portion of reputation data to the client. Bukow is concerned with addressing issues with finding and matching workers for a project that allows for the inclusion of quantitative measures in the matching (see paragraph 009, Bukow). As such, if Bukow provided a paid service, which it does not disclose, Bukow would be accepting remuneration for addressing matching workers to a project using quantitative measures via a two-stage matching process. Therefore, Bukow fails to disclose accepting remuneration for furnishing the portion of reputation data to the client.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, Bukow fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Claims 13-21 depend on and incorporate all the patentable limitations of independent claim 12 as amended. Thus, Bukow fails to detract from the patentability of claims 12-21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the Examiner's rejection of claims 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

C. Patentability of Independent Claim 22

Independent claim 22 is directed towards a system having a collection of reputation data regarding multiple parties. The system includes an automated reputation service for accessing the collection of reputation data on behalf of clients to provide clients with data from the collection of reputation data. Applicant submits that Bukow does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

Bukow does not disclose an automated reputation service for accessing a collection of reputation data regarding multiple parties. Instead of providing an automated reputation service for accessing a collection of reputation data as in the claimed invention, Bukow provides an automated project matching service for matching workers to projects. Bukow uses a two-stage matching process to reduce the number of workers considered for a project. In the second-stage of the process, Bukow provides a weighted or normalized indicator of reputation of a worker along with other characteristics only if the worker matches the binary characteristics of activity, location, and industry of the project during the first-stage matching process. As such, Bukow is concerned with automating project procurement instead of automating the providing of reputation data from a collection of reputation data. Therefore, Bukow fails to disclose an automated reputation service for accessing a collection of reputation data regarding multiple parties.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, Bukow fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Claims 23-26 depend on and incorporate all the patentable limitations of independent claim 22. Thus, Bukow fails to detract from the patentability of claims 23-27. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the Examiner's rejection of claims 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102.



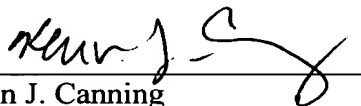
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant contends each of the presently pending claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the claims to allowance.

If the Examiner deems there are any remaining issues, we invite the Examiner to call the Applicant's Attorney at the telephone number identified below.

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